(c) Indian Embassy in Bahrain has been holding discussion with workers and management. Part payment has been made to the workers by the foreign employer. The matter has been referred to the local Court.

Houses taken on Lease by the ITDC

1048. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ITDC has been giving house building loans to its senior executives and also taking their built-up houses on lease basis at handsome price for self-occupation by the same executives;

(b) whether such a practice is legal and in conformity with the guidelines laid down by Government; and

(c) if not, what steps are being taken to stop such malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) to (c) The employees including executives of ITDC are eligible for interest bearing house building advance in accordance with the ITDC Employees Housing Loans (Grant & Recovery) Rules, 1976. No such built up house/flat acquired by an employee (either by taking loans or otherwise) has been taken by ITDC on lease for occupation by the same executive.

Appointment of Foreign Nationals by the ITDC etc.

1049. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some foreign nationals are employed in India by the Tourism Promotion Agencies of Government including ITDC on short or long term basis;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof with justification in each case; and

(c) whether prior approval of the Central Government was taken before employing such officials?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) and (b) In ITDC, there is only one Chinese national who has been employed as a Chef for the Mandarin Room at Hotel Janpath. This Restaurant is a speciality restaurant serving Chinese Cuisine. The Chinese Chef in addition to preparation of Chinese Food is also utilised for imparting training and know-how of Chinese Cuisine to the other food production staff.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Transfer of Lodges and Restaurants to State Tourism Corporations by the ITDC

1050. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) how many lodges and restaurants have so far been transferred to State Tourism Corporations by the ITDC and the reasons for such transfers;

(b) what are the terms of transfer of these properties to the State Tourism Corporations including that of its employees;

(c) whether any complaints have been received from the employees of these lodges and restaurants for non-payment of their dues or for protection of their wages and service benefits; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken against the erring officials responsible for the delay and violation of the terms of agreement against the interest of transferred employees?